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Dear ENERGY STAR partner,

Since first posting the ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3 guidelines in April 2010, EPA has continued to clarify and refine the program requirements in response to partner feedback. The purpose of this revision process is to be responsive to partner questions, to disseminate policy changes in a consistent manner, and to adapt the program as needed for success. The revision process improves clarity, provides alternative compliance options, and addresses unintended barriers to implementation. In general, the revision process does not result in more stringent guidelines.

Revision 04 to the Version 3 guidelines has been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](http://www.energystar.gov). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, at their discretion, but must apply this Revision to all homes permitted on or after October 1, 2011.

As part of this Revision, all major program documents have been updated. A Revision 04 Version Tracking Document containing all of the specific changes in this Revision has also been created, and a document highlighting the most substantial changes is attached to this message. EPA strongly encourages partners to review these documents so that they understand the changes, clarifications, alternative compliance paths, and exemptions in Revision 04. By way of summary, several key changes in Revision 04 include:

- Adjusting the overall implementation timeline of the program requirements and the timeline for two specific items related to HVAC design;
- Counting all bedrooms, regardless of location, when determining the Benchmark Home Size and Size Adjustment Factor;
- Restricting sampling to the Inspection Checklists verified by Raters;
- Providing additional flexibility and implementation time for site-specific HVAC design and pressure-balancing requirements; and
- Removing the requirement for a layer of aggregate or sand with geotextile matting beneath slabs.

We encourage you to participate in the **Revision 04 webinar** that has been scheduled for **September 6 from 2-3pm Eastern**. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/632521048>.

EPA is revising training resources, including the Inspection Checklist Guidebooks and webinars, to reflect Revision 04 and will notify partners of their availability in the next few weeks.

Please contact us at [energystarhomes@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhomes@energystar.gov) if you have any questions. Thank you for your work promoting ENERGY STAR.

The ENERGY STAR for New Homes Team

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This message was sent to you on behalf of the ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program. As a condition of partnership, each ENERGY STAR partner must have at least one person authorized to receive periodic e-mail updates from ENERGY STAR to ensure that the organization is aware of program changes, new resources, and other important program news. If you are not the appropriate person in your organization to receive these e-mails, please email [energystarhomes@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhomes@energystar.gov) with "Unsubscribe" as the subject and your name and company name in the email.